

BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

June 25, 2009

Present: David Kaufman, Nancy Gilbert, David Ahlfeld, Sandy Sulsky

Staff: Epi Bodhi, Ellen Bokina, Pamela Field-Sadler

Other: Maria Bulzacchelli – Potential BOH member/Amherst resident

Meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.

I. Review & Receive

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting minutes from May 28, 2009 -**Accepted as written**

II. Old Business

A. Tobacco Regulations

1. Smoking Disclosure in Multi-Unit Residences

The BOH reviewed and discussed revised draft documents of the proposed Landlord Disclosure Regulations submitted by Attorney D.J. Wilson; the draft documents reflected suggested BOH modifications. During the discussion the following was noted:

- Ms. Bodhi will request Attorney Wilson to revise the draft proposed Smoking Disclosure in Multi-unit Residences to include modifications.
- After receiving the next draft from Attorney Wilson, Ms. Bodhi will forward the document to BOH members for review, and seek input from an Amherst Landlord as well.

2. Open Spaces

The Board of Health discussed amending the *Town of Amherst Regulation Prohibiting Smoking In Workplaces and Public Places* to include prohibiting smoking in outdoor spaces. The majority of the BOH members support possibly amending the current regulations to include outdoor areas served by wait staff. Ms. Bodhi will request Attorney Wilson draft language for the Board's consideration.

III. New Business

A. Isolation and Quarantine

Ms. Bodhi explained isolation and quarantine is an effective, commonly used tool for controlling the spread of a communicable disease by isolating those individuals who are sick with an infectious disease, or quarantining those individuals who are thought to be exposed to an infectious disease. Ms. Bodhi outlined the process followed in determining the need to institute isolation and/or quarantine in order to prevent the spread of a communicable disease. At this time, Ms. Bodhi does not recommend the BOH create a specific regulation regarding isolation and quarantine.

IV. Director's Report

A. North Central-Franklin County Tobacco Control Alliance

The BOH received a report from Joan Hamlett of the North Central-Franklin County Tobacco Control Alliance. The report showed the results of a recent compliance check of tobacco retailer establishments. Items checked for were: permits; Massachusetts required signage; free standing tobacco display requirements.

B. MAHB Certification

The BOH received the fall schedule for the MAHB Certification Program.

C. Solid Waste Regulations

Susan Waite, Recycling Coordinator has requested to meet with the BOH at their July 2009 meeting to discuss amendments to the *Regulations for Refuse Collection and Mandatory Recycling*.

D. Farmer's Market

The Health Department Inspectors continue to complete weekly inspections at the Farmer's Market to enforce compliance with the state regulations. They are concerned with the processed food vendors, and would like to see portable hand washing stations available at the market. Ms. Bodhi and Ms. Bokina have attended a meeting with the Agricultural Committee, and have heard some of the farmers' complaints. The Agricultural Committee would like the BOH to attend a future meeting as well. Ms. Bokina explained the Farmer's Market has grown and now includes processed products such as meat, pesto and popsicles. The Health Inspectors will try again in the fall to meet with the Farmer's Market vendors to share information. There is a need for a liaison to work with the vendors and the Health Inspectors.

E. FY10 Budget

The Health Department has taken a serious hit for the upcoming FY10. The part-time Inspector position, held by Javeria Mir, has been cut entirely. Ms. Mir will be a large loss to the department. The Public Health Nurse position has been reduced to 20 hours per week and the Cambodian Outreach Worker's hours will be totally grant funded. The Town will continue to be responsible for the Cambodian Outreach Worker's benefits for FY10.

F. Emergency Preparedness

Currently, Amherst is part of the Hampshire County Emergency Preparedness Coalition, but this has not been a proper fit from the onset. There have been discussions regarding Amherst, Northampton and the Quabbin Health District forming their own coalition. Ms. Bodhi asks for the Board's support in contemplating this switch.

IV. Schedule Next BOH Meeting/Agenda Closing Date

- A.** The next BOH meeting will be July 16, 2009.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 p.m.

